

ABSTRACT

A sterile, bioabsorbable, disposable surgical sponge operable for absorbing blood from within a surgical site. The sponge is an open cell porous body made from a bioabsorbable polymer, a carbohydrate, a protein or a hydrogel. In the event that the sponge is accidentally left within the body during a surgical procedure, the sponge is biodegraded and excreted by the body.